

Legal Notice
Notice Opportunity to Object
Swauk Pine Restoration Project
Final Environmental Assessment
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
Cle Elum Ranger District

The Swauk Pine Restoration Project Draft Decision Notice and Final Environmental Assessment (EA) have been completed. This is a notice for the start of the Pre-Decisional Administrative Review (Objection) period. The Swauk Pine Restoration Project Final Environmental Assessment (EA) documents a No Action Alternative and a Proposed Action. The proposed action alternative contains vegetation management and fuels treatments. This alternative will thin trees (both commercial and pre-commercial size), use prescribed fire to reduce treatment slash and use landscape scale prescribed underburning to reduce wildfire risk. In addition, the proposed action makes adjustments to the road and trail system, replaces stream crossing culverts or modifies existing crossings to provide for fish and aquatic species passage, replenishes large wood in streams and floodplains to restore channel conditions and aquatic habitat, modifies use patterns at some dispersed recreation sites within riparian areas and restores riparian soils and vegetation, and manages danger trees. An analysis of the proposal was conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the implementing regulations of 40 CFR 1508.

The Swauk Pine planning area is 6,484 acres in size. It encompasses 287 acres of private land that will not be treated, and 6,242 acres of National Forest System land that have proposed restoration objectives across the landscape. The planning area is bounded on the south and east by Williams Creek, on the north by the ridge between Lion Gulch and Hurley Creek, and on the west by the ridge between Swauk Creek and Lion Gulch.

The Swauk Pine Project Area is located approximately 10 miles northeast of the town of Cle Elum in Kittitas County, Washington (Fig. 1). The legal location of the Project Area is as follows: Sections 17-21 and 29-31, T. 21 N., R. 18 E.; Sections 23-26 and 35-36 T. 21 N., R. 17 E.; and Sections 1-2, T. 20 N., R. 17 E., W.M.

Copies of the Final EA and Draft Decision Notice may be viewed at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=44149>. To view or request a hard copy of the Final EA or Draft Decision please write, call or visit the Cle Elum Ranger Station at 803 W 2nd Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509-852-1100). Office hours 8:00AM to 12:30PM and 1:15PM to 4:00PM. Monday through Friday except legal holidays. For Further Information about the project contact, John Agar, Project Leader, at 509-852-1061.

The project is subject to pre-decisional administrative review pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. The 45-day objection period begins the day following publication of notice of opportunity to object in the Ellensburg Daily Record, the newspaper of record. Only individuals or organizations who submitted specific written or oral comments (36 CFR 218.2) during the designated opportunity for public participation (scoping or 30-day comment periods) may object (36 CFR 218.5). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after the opportunities for comment. The burden is on the objector to demonstrate compliance with the

requirement for objection issues 36 CFR 218.8(c).

Minimum requirements of an objection are described in 36 CFR 218.8(d). An objection must include: a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project; if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and a statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities for comment. Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided for at 36 CFR 218.8(b). Objections can be submitted in several forms, but must be received by the Forest Supervisor, the Objection Deciding Officer, within 45 days from the date of publication of notice of objection in the Ellensburg Daily Record. The publication date in the Ellensburg Daily Record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Attachments to the objection received after the 45 day objection period will not be considered. Those wishing to object to this Draft Decision Notice should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure their objections are received in a timely manner as described in 36 CFR 218.9. For electronically mailed objections, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation or receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated electronic acknowledgement of the objection form the agency as confirmation, it is the senders' responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

Objections may be submitted in the following ways: 1) **Electronic Submission:** Electronic objections will be accepted through the Forest Service online comment system available at <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=44149>; 2) **Hand Delivered to:** Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Forest Supervisors Office, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington 98801 between 8:00am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday except legal holidays; 3) **Fax:** Objections may also be faxed to Forest Supervisor, Attn: Objections, at 509-664-9280. or 4) **Mailed to:** Forest Supervisor, Objection Reviewing Officer, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Attn: Appeals and Objection, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington 98801. Objections delivered by mail must be received before the close of the fifth business day after the objection filing period.

Attachments to comments must be submitted only in one of the following three formats: Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf) or Adobe Portable Document format (pdf). Emails submitted to email addresses other than the one listed above or in other formats than those listed or containing viruses will be rejected. Objections received in response to this notice, including names, addresses, and any other information provided with the objection, will be considered a part of the public record and will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act and released if requested.

Published: February 11, 2019